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Battle at Ice Palace

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by Charlotte Fullerton

Battle at Ice Palace

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It'll Be a Breeze

Sonic the Hedgehog and all his best friends had been searching all over the universe for powerful crystals called **Chaos Emeralds.** They soared through the stars on a spaceship called the Blue Typhoon.

On the bridge of the ship, a smart, adventurous boy named Chris was installing some computer software he had just written.

"My new program will let us detect a Chaos Emerald anywhere in the galaxy, no matter how far away it may be," Chris announced proudly. "What do you say we try it out, Sonic?" asked Chris.

"Sure thing!" Sonic said.

"I'm detecting a response!"

"Now we connect it to the **main interface,** and we'll be on our way," Tails explained. He used the intercom to call down to the engine room. "Knuckles, is everything okay?"

"So far, so good," replied Knuckles from the engine room.

"Whoa!" Tails's voice cried over the intercom to Knuckles as a blip suddenly appeared on the radar screen.

"What's up?" Knuckles asked. "You got something?"

"Yeah!" Tails yelped. "I'm detecting a response!"

Cosmo smiled. "It's thanks to you, Chris."

"It's no big deal, really." Chris shrugged.

"Sure it's a big deal!" Tails chimed in. "I've built lots of neat stuff, but I couldn't have come up with something this good overnight."

"Aw, come on, Tails." Chris blushed. "You're embarrassing me."

Tails turned his attention back to the blip. **"Amy, what's the location?"**

Amy used the ship's computer to trace the

source. "The signal's coming from a place called **Planet Breezy.**"

"That sounds *cool*!" Tails joked. "Okay, Planet Breezy, here we come!"

"We're on our way!" Amy said, adjusting her controls.

"Engage Warp Field Driver!" Tails commanded.

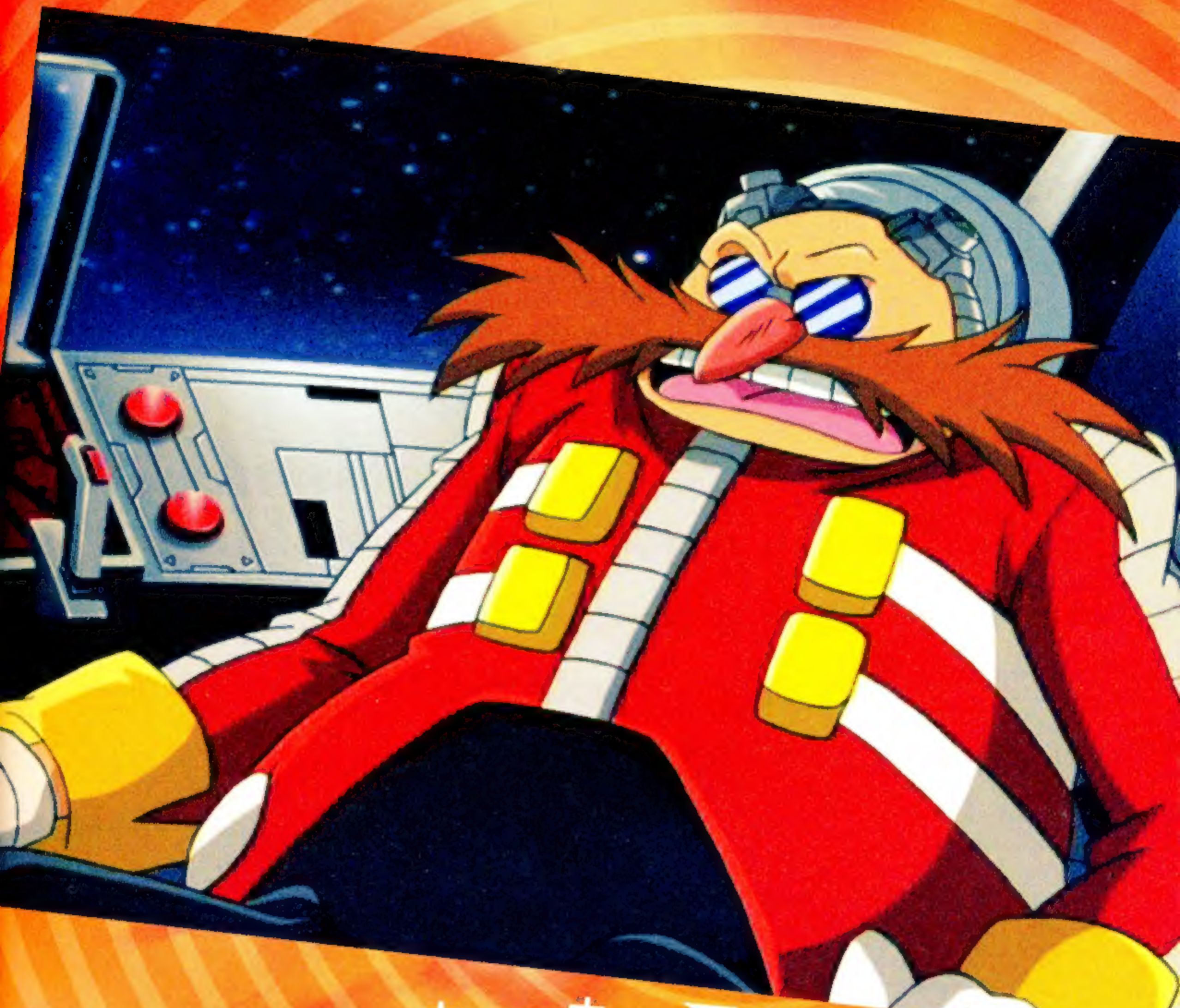
Outside, a ring of energy shot from the cone-shaped nose of the Blue Typhoon. The glowing circle grew, then it hovered in space in front of the ship like a large, round doorway.

"Warp Field ready!" shouted Tails. **"Let's go!"**

The Blue Typhoon slowly flew through the ring. The ship began pulsing with energy, then it vanished in a blinding flash of colorful light!

Elsewhere in outer space, aboard a ship called the Egg Crimson, lurked one of Sonic's old enemies.

"Sonic and those **time-warping nitwits** can't shake me!" cackled Dr. Eggman. "Not with my new All Space Tracking System. Throw it into Egg Drive!" he ordered his henchmen.



"Throw it into Egg Drive!"

"Aye, aye, Doctor," robots Decoe and Bocoe replied.

A **cluster of energy** shaped like an egg-shell formed around the ship in space, then it cracked apart. The ship had disappeared! The Egg Crimson had teleported away.

No Business Like Snow Business

The spaceship Blue Typhoon reappeared in the upper atmosphere of Planet Breezy.

"There it is, guys! Straight ahead!" Amy pointed. "But it looks like **rough weather.** The whole planet's in the middle of a terrible snowstorm!"

This reminded Sonic of a similar situation during a past adventure. "When the Metarex stole the Planet Egg from Aqua Planet," he recalled, "it caused a flood to cover that whole world with water."

"Oh!" Cosmo fretted. "Maybe the Metarex have taken Planet Breezy's Planet Egg away!"

Tails scratched his chin thoughtfully. "That

Let's go!

would explain the weird weather they're having."

Cosmo sighed in despair at the poor snow-covered trees and frozen ground. "Everything looks so **cold and lonely.**"

"Even so," Chris added, taking charge of the situation, "we have to go down there and look for the Emerald. Ready, Sonic?"

"Sure!" Sonic piped up eagerly. **"Let's go!"**

Tails piloted the Blue Typhoon down through the swirling snowstorm clouds of Planet Breezy.

Suddenly, a huge spiked ball appeared out of nowhere and violently struck the Blue Typhoon!

"Whoa!" Cosmo, Cream, and Cheese all screamed in shock.

The spiked ball was attached to the tip of the tail of a **gigantic, roaring monster** made of ice crystals!

Amy stammered, "Wh-what is that thing, Chris?"

"It's a Crystal Metarex!" Chris shouted, firing the Blue Typhoon's missiles at the attacker.

At the same instant, the Metarex fired

missiles of its own back toward the Blue Typhoon! Chris's rockets hit their target dead on and destroyed the ice monster. But the Metarex's missiles were still headed straight for the Blue Typhoon. **BOOM!** Though the enemy was destroyed, the missiles it had already fired now reached the Blue Typhoon and exploded!

"Hang on, guys!" Tails yelled to his passengers. "I'm going to have to bring it in for an emergency landing!"

With the storm still raging, the Blue Typhoon **crashed to the ground,** skidding across the white surface of the planet, leaving a long, deep, dark groove in the snow.

When the ship finally came to a stop, Tails called down to the engine room. "Knuckles? **Do we have any damage?**"

"I'm afraid so," Knuckles responded grimly, bathed in red by the ship's emergency lighting. "Looks like engines one and three have been hit. We'll have to fix them, or we'll never get off the ground!"

The Blue Typhoon makes an emergency landing

Ice to Meet You

Somewhere else on Planet Breezy, the spaceship Egg Crimson now sat parked in the howling snowstorm. Inside, Dr. Eggman gleefully checked his ship's instruments.

"My tracking system indicates Sonic's somewhere on this planet," said the villain, grinning, "which means those **nasty creatures** will be coming soon to try and destroy him."

"Who's going to destroy him?" asked Bocoe. "The Metarex?"

Eggman ignored the interruption. "And it's very likely we'll come under attack, too, unless we find a hiding place!"

Decoe and Bocoe clapped excitedly. "Yay!

Hide-and-seek!" They both shouted, "Not It!"

"I said 'Not It' first," Bocoe insisted.

"Did not!" pouted Decoe.

"Did, too!" Bocoe complained, turning to Dr. Eggman. "Which one of us has to be It, boss?"

"You're both It!" their leader bellowed, throwing two snow shovels at the robots. "Go out and **start digging!** I want this ship hidden inside a giant Eggloo by nightfall!"

Little did they know, a **villainous vixen** named Rouge was eavesdropping on them from inside their own ship! She snuck up on Eggman's meekest henchman, Bokkun, in the hall.

"I need you to do a tiny favor for me," she purred, dangling a heart-shaped locket in front of his face.

Staring at the locket, Bokkun nervously nodded yes.

"This is **sleeping powder,**" said Rouge, handing Bokkun a small container. "You're going to use it to whip up a batch of my very special hot chocolate recipe for your friends!"

Rouge hypnotizes Bokkun

"Why do you want me to make Dr. E and the robots fall asleep?" asked Bokkun hesitantly.

"You'll see," Rouge snickered.

Back at the Blue Typhoon's crash site, the ship's hatch swung open. Sonic, Knuckles, and Cosmo stood in the doorway, shivering in the wind. Chris joined them, wearing a winter coat with mittens and holding a big bag.

"Let's get this *snow* on the road!" Sonic chuckled, leaping out the door to be the first one on the surface.

Chris called out to Sonic, "It might be—"

The hedgehog landed and sank into the snow all the way up to his eyebrows!

"Deep," Chris finished. "Don't worry, I packed some snowshoes," he added, taking one out of his bag.

From under the snow, Sonic's muffled voice sighed, "Now he tells me!"

Before long, Sonic, Knuckles, Chris, and Cosmo all had on snowshoes and were out

exploring Planet Breezy.

"What are you doing?" Knuckles asked Cosmo as she leaned her ear against the trunk of a frozen tree.

"I'm trying to listen," Cosmo shushed him.

Sonic was curious, too. "Trying to listen to what?"

Cosmo closed her eyes in concentration. "If this tree is still alive, I will hear its **life force.**" She paused, then shook her head sadly. "I knew we were too late."

Chris tried to cheer her up. "Don't worry, Cosmo. Maybe it'll come to life again next spring."

Cosmo stared into the endless snowstorm. **"There won't be a spring."**

Sonic had a thought. "If the Metarex had already taken the Planet Egg away, there'd be no reason for them to still be hanging around. Maybe the Egg's still here someplace!"

Cosmo brightened. "If that's true, we have to try and find it."

Cosmo listens for the tree's life force

Knuckles didn't like the idea of getting side-tracked from their mission. "We don't have time!"

Cosmo pleaded, "If we find it, this planet might have a chance to survive!"

"The Blue Typhoon is damaged," Sonic reminded them.

"Maybe we could use the **X-Tornado**," suggested Chris. "If we look for the Egg, we might find the Emerald."

Sonic nodded in agreement. "Then I say we do it!"

"Thank you both!" Cosmo gushed. "This planet will be so grateful to you."

"Oh, all right," Knuckles gave in. "Let's go."

Soon the small yellow X-Tornado ship launched out of the much larger Blue Typhoon, with Knuckles, Sonic, Chris, and Cosmo aboard. Little did they know that a **robotic camera** was hiding behind a snowdrift, spying on their every move!

Inside a magnificent palace of ice, the boss

Crystal Metarex glared at monitors showing the spy robot's view.

"Our enemies have arrived!" the evil leader announced.

All around him dozens of Metarex assembled row by row into an army ready for a surprise attack on Sonic!

Out Cold

A strangely shaped igloo bulged out of the snowy surface on Planet Breezy. It was the Eggloo that Decoe and Bocoe built to hide Dr. Eggman's ship.

Inside, the doctor and his two robots were **sprawled on the floor,** holding empty hot chocolate mugs and snoring like buzz saws! The only crew member not out cold was Bokkun, who tried to look on the bright side of betraying his team.

Maybe a nap will do the Doc some good, Bokkun thought hopefully. *When he wakes up, he might not be so* **grouchy** *anymore.*

Outside in the storm, Rouge was using her

wings to fly away from the Eggloo. "I knocked those three out but good," she gloated. "While they're sleeping I'll be on the lookout for that Chaos Emerald! My plan is working perfectly!"

Meanwhile, the X-Tornado approached the Ice Palace.

Knuckles pointed ahead. "There they are!"

The surrounding sky was filled with legions of Crystal Metarex unleashing their surprise attack on Sonic!

Sonic gritted his teeth. "We're ready for them!"

"Let's go!" Chris shouted, firing a power-up ring from the tip of the X-Tornado.

Sonic jumped off the ship and grabbed the ring in midair. "Got it!" he called back to Chris.

The ring gave Sonic the energy boost he needed to spin superfast! In a blur the whirling hedgehog destroyed enemies left and right!

"That's the way, Sonic!" cheered Chris.

A second wave of Metarex moved into attack position.

Tornado fires Vulcan gun!

"My turn!" Knuckles leaped off the X-Tornado. Grunting with effort, he punched and kicked his way through the enemy ranks, scattering broken pieces every which way!

Sonic and Knuckles hopped back onto the X-Tornado.

"Don't let them get away, Chris!" Sonic cried.

"I won't!" Chris called back.

The X-Tornado fired its Vulcan gun at the advancing rows of Metarex, picking off one creature after another!

A group of Metarex began to flee down a narrow passageway between two cliff faces of sheer ice. Chris expertly piloted the X-Tornado after them. A snow-covered mountain loomed ahead at the end of the trench.

"You've got them on the run!" cheered Sonic. Suddenly, the creatures set off a series of explosions on the mountain! The vibrations caused an avalanche of snow to thunder down right toward the trapped X-Tornado!

Chris gasped. "I think we're in big trouble!"

Endless Enemies

At the last possible second, the Blue Typhoon swooped down in between the avalanche and the X-Tornado, acting like a shield! The mighty tidal wave of snow shuddered to a stop against the hull of the much larger ship, blocking the tiny X-Tornado from harm.

"Back to the repair shop," Tails muttered from the pilot seat of the Blue Typhoon he had just finished fixing.

On the bridge with Tails, Amy read the scanner. "The Chaos Emerald is in the center of that Ice Palace!"

"Then let's head for it now!" Sonic told Knuckles. The two of them jumped off the

X-Tornado and hit the ground running. But they slipped and fell flat on their faces, unable to stand on the icy ground.

Chris's voice called out, "Sonic! Use this!"

The X-Tornado fired a Jet Snowboard into the air.

"Thanks, Chris!" Sonic waved. "Just what I needed!"

Sonic leaped onto the flying snowboard and power slid through a row of Metarex, dashing them to shreds!

Knuckles lay on the slippery ground and pouted up at Chris. "Wouldn't happen to have one of those things for me, would you?"

"Sorry, Knuckles!" Chris's voice shouted down from the X-Tornado. "I only had time to make one!"

Knuckles grumbled as he clumsily slipped and slid on the ice, making his way back toward the X-Tornado.

"I don't get any respect!" he complained loudly. "No respect at all!"

The Ice Palace sparkles

Just then, a different villain with her own agenda arrived at the palace.

"My, my, my!" Rouge said with admiration. "All that **sparkling ice** makes this place look like a twenty-four-karat castle!"

Suddenly, a gang of Metarex surrounded Rouge!

"Get lost," she growled, not the least bit scared. Rouge launched into her Screw Kick **attack mode,** power spinning until she became a long, white, pointed blur, which then skewered the three ice monsters like a shish-kebab!

Frozen in Terror

In the Ice Palace's central cavern, the boss Crystal Metarex was following the outdoor battle on his bank of surveillance monitors. One screen showed Sonic tearing around on his **Jet Snowboard.** Another zoomed in on the X-Tornado roaring through the sky with Chris in the cockpit.

Without saying a word, the evil leader turned to face the huge column of ice where the red Chaos Emerald was encased. Stepping forward, the boss Metarex **magically** passed right into the heart of the solid frozen pillar!

Outside, the X-Tornado shot its missiles at the roof of the Ice Palace. The explosion

created a hole just big enough for a certain blue hedgehog to snowboard through.

Sonic **zoomed** into the palace's main chamber. There were lots of monitors and computer equipment, but not a single Metarex to be seen.

Something caught Sonic's eye. Inside a huge column of ice sat the Chaos Emerald! And no one was guarding it! Sonic cautiously approached. "It can't be this easy."

Suddenly, the wall across the room shattered! Shards of ice fell away from the hole, revealing Knuckles in a punching pose, with Chris and Cosmo beside him.

"Sonic!" shouted Chris, pointing at the Chaos Emerald inside the frozen pillar. "Can you get it out of there?"

"I'll try," Sonic vowed.

Above, unnoticed, someone was quietly observing them from the hole in the ceiling. It was Rouge, sneaky as ever. **"That Chaos Emerald's as good as mine!"** she said, grinning.

Sonic speeding by
on his Jet Snowboard

"Leave this to me!" growled Knuckles, holding up his thick, sharp Shovel Claws toward the Chaos Emerald. But try as he might, Knuckles's fierce **Shovel Claw attack** didn't make even a tiny scratch in the ice pillar. "That ice is harder than a diamond!" he complained.

"Of course it is!" boomed the voice of the unseen boss Metarex. "If it were not, we would be at the mercy of thieves like you!"

"Come out where we can see you!" challenged Knuckles.

Laughing evilly, the big boss Metarex materialized inside the clear column with the Chaos Emerald!

Sonic leaped at the creature in Full-Spin attack mode but bounced off the ice pillar without making a dent.

"Now I will destroy you!" the villain seethed, taking hold of the Chaos Emerald. The column of ice began to melt!

"That heat energy's from the Emerald!" gasped Chris.

With its support pillar melting, the palace started to collapse! Sonic and his friends ran for their lives!

Unbreakable

Sonic, Chris, Knuckles, and Cosmo raced out of the crumbling Ice Palace. The ferocious boss Metarex burst through the rubble after them.

The gigantic crystal creature punched its spiked hand into the frozen ground, creating a long, dangerous crack that snaked its way toward our heroes! Before Chris and Cosmo could move, the ground under their feet opened up!

"Ah!" cried Cosmo and Chris in surprise and fear as they started falling down into the deep, dark hole!

In a flash, Sonic and Knuckles raced to

the edge of the chasm and grabbed hold of Chris and Cosmo, saving their two friends from plummeting to their doom!

"Hang in there, guys!" Tails's voice called down from the Blue Typhoon, hovering in the sky above. Tails aimed the ship toward the boss Metarex and prepared to fire.

The enemy opened its mouth and blew a gust of subzero breath at the Blue Typhoon, covering the ship with ice! "Our cannon's frozen solid!" Amy gasped.

The X-Tornado came soaring over to give it a shot. Chris fired at every part of the boss Metarex's body.

There just has to be a weak spot! Chris thought.

But when the smoke cleared, the hulking monster still looked as good as new!

"The rockets didn't even faze him!" groaned Chris.

Never one to give up easily, Chris tried a different tactic. "Heads up, Sonic!"

Chris runs at the Metarex

The X-Tornado fired two rings of energy into the air.

Sonic leaped off his Jet Snowboard and caught the two power-up rings, instantly energizing into his superfast spin attack! Sonic became a **blurry blue ball of fury!**

With robotic coldness, the Metarex opened its hand, and a long shaft of ice extended out of its palm like a sword.

The **whirling hedgehog** quickly wore down the ice lance to a nub, landing in his enemy's enormous, empty hand. But the monster's spiky claws began to close around our hero!

"Uh-oh." Sonic gulped.

Fire and Ice

On the X-Tornado above, Cosmo cried at Sonic's grave situation in the clutches of the boss Metarex. "We've got to do something to save him!" she begged her pilot, Chris.

Leaning forward in worry, Cosmo accidentally pressed a large red button on the console. "Whoops," she murmured.

That large red button just happened to be the firing mechanism for the X-Tornado's laser beam! A stream of energy shot from the ship and cut off the ice monster's hand, freeing Sonic!

Chris congratulated Cosmo on her brilliant idea. "Great job, Cosmo! You're a real lifesaver!"

"Huh?" Cosmo reacted, not realizing what she'd done.

"The laser beam sliced right through the ice," Chris explained. "That Metarex may be unbreakable, but **it melts!**"

Chris docked the X-Tornado back on the Blue Typhoon.

Tails knew just how to put Chris's plan into action. "All we have to do," Tails told the group, "is get Knuckles to power up the laser cannon, and we'll be good to go."

Knuckles readied the engine room's Master Emerald.

As the laser drew power from the Master Emerald, Tails kept an eye on the rising meter. "Seventy, eighty, ninety . . ."

"Energy-charging sequence complete!" announced Chris.

"Fire!" ordered Tails.

The Blue Typhoon's laser-cannon blast shot straight at the boss Metarex.

The unbreakable villain just laughed. "Your

Out of the remains
pops a Planet Egg!

weapons are of no use against me!"

The monster opened its one remaining hand, and a long shaft of ice grew out from its palm, too. He swung this second giant crystal sword to block the laser beam. But the powerful heat of the laser dissolved the ice, causing a huge cloud of steam to cover the entire creature!

With a **furious roar,** the unbreakable boss Crystal Metarex simply melted away.

Then out of the villain's smoldering remains popped a Planet Egg! Cosmo smiled wide.

"Mission accomplished."

She Thought She Saw a Chaos Emerald

A short time later the Ice Palace had completely evaporated! Planet Breezy was finally thawing.

"Take a look at this!" Sonic pointed toward his feet.

Cosmo was overjoyed. "The grass! It's growing!"

"Spring came after all." Chris smiled. "Before you know it, this place will be all green and beautiful again."

"I found it!" Knuckles had spied the red Chaos Emerald wedged in the mud. But as he reached for it, three thank-you cards suddenly speared into the ground around the gem!

The heart-decorated cards belonged to the rogue villainess Rouge! Before Knuckles could blink,

Thanks for doing the dirty work!"

she swooped down from the sky, snatched the Emerald, and flew away.

"Thanks for doing the dirty work!" the thief called back with a teasing wink. "I owe you one, Knucky!"

"You bring that back here!" Knuckles shook his fist at the sky, but it was no use. Rouge was gone.

Amy stared in awe. "She just stole the Chaos Emerald!"

"Thanks very much for the update," snapped Knuckles.

Later in outer space, on the bridge of the Egg Crimson, Dr. Eggman yelled at his robots for falling asleep in their hideout and ruining his chance to find the Chaos Emerald. "I ought to dismantle you two snoozing losers!"

"You were snoozing, too!" Bocoe whined.

"We all fell asleep after Bokkun brought us that tasty hot chocolate!" added Decoe, turning to glare at Bokkun.

"Uh," stammered Bokkun, "it wasn't my idea to put the sleeping powder in your cocoa."

"What?!" shouted the other three villains, suspicious.

"Um," Bokkun stuttered again, "I meant marshmallows!" Then to himself he sighed, "I'm not a very good traitor."

Meanwhile, below deck, stowaway Rouge was warming up in a bathtub after her chilly day. She admired the radiant, red Chaos Emerald. "Just get a load of that shine!" Then the gem's glow began to fade! "Wait a minute! This is a—"

"Fake!" finished Tails on the Blue Typhoon, in another part of the galaxy. "The components of that Emerald were off so slightly, even the scanners didn't pick it up!"

"I've reprogrammed them, Tails," reported Chris. "Next time they'll only respond to real Emeralds."

"Good work, guys!" Sonic smiled proudly. "Nothing can stop us now! We're a lean, mean

"Good work, guys!"

Emerald-finding team!"

"Yeah!" Chris gave Sonic a high five, then thought aloud, "But what I can't figure out is what that Metarex was doing with a **fake Emerald.**"

"Maybe the fake Emerald was a decoy the Metarex used to throw us off the track," guessed Tails.

Knuckles couldn't help snickering. "Wait'll Rouge finds out she **filched a phony!**"

Meanwhile, back in the bathtub, Rouge was not amused. "They think they can fool me, do they? We'll see about that!" she vowed, crushing the ashen remains of the decoy.

As the Egg Crimson zoomed away into the distance, Rouge's furious voice echoed in space: "I'll make them pay for this! **I'll make them pay!**"

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Follow Sonic as he battles through different worlds to find the Chaos Emeralds before his enemies do . . . Can you keep up?

When Sonic and friends discover a Chaos Emerald on the frozen Planet Breezy, they shift the Blue Typhoon into warp speed to track it down. But it's being guarded by an almost indestructible Crystal Metarex! And the villainous vixen, Rouge, is trying to get the Chaos Emerald for herself! Does Sonic stand a chance at getting the Chaos Emerald, or will he be iced out?

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